

other industrialized nations. The United States has the highest rates of firearm-related deaths among industrialized countries. Between 1980 and 1997 three out of four murdered juveniles ages 12 or older were killed with a firearm. The American Academy of Pediatrics even predicts that by the year 2003, firearm-related deaths may become the leading cause of injury-related death.

It is imperative that we act now and not allow Republican leaders to dismantle the vital gun safety provisions contained within the current juvenile justice bill. Simply passing a bill without any gun safety provisions would be irresponsible and a terrible mistake on the part of this Congress. We must let the American people know that we are not afraid to take the steps necessary to enact responsible legislation. We cannot allow the NRA to determine how this Congress acts at the expense of our children. We are holding this vigil to continue the push for this Congress to pass gun safety legislation that would close the gun show loophole and include common-sense gun safety measures that prevent felons, fugitives and stalkers from obtaining fire arms and children from getting access to guns. The American people have waited long enough for us to act on this legislation. We can no longer delay and wait for the next tragedy in order to take action.

CURRENT HEADLINES

Sunday, June 11, in Harris County, a 14-year-old girl shot and killed another teen, James Stampfli. Evidently, the two teens were arguing over a motorcycle and the girl took a semi-automatic .22 rifle and shot the other teen.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LATE RAY JENNINGS KEMPFER

HON. DAVE WELDON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2000

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the Kempfer family lives and works on the lands of Deer Park Ranch, which has belonged to the family since 1889.

Today I salute Ray Jennings Kempfer and honor the life of this young man who was born January 15, 1974, and died in the early hours of April 3, 2000. The cause of his unexpected and untimely death is still unknown.

Ray is the son of Reed and Charlene Kempfer. Reed and his brother Billy are the great-grandsons of William Hopkins who pioneered the ranch. Ray recently completed his Masters in Reproductive Physiology and graduated with honors from the University of Florida, and following the family tradition took his place on the ranch.

My condolences go out to the family, local ranchers, and the community that were shocked by his untimely death.

A RESOLUTION HONORING JOSEPH NORTHRUP, LEGRAND SMITH SCHOLARSHIP WINNER OF TECUMSEH, MI

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2000

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, let it be known, that it is with great respect for the outstanding record of excellence he has compiled in academics, leadership and community service, that I am proud to salute Joseph Northrup, winner of the 2000 LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This award is made to young adults who have demonstrated that they are truly committed to playing important roles in our Nation's future.

As a winner of the LeGrand Smith Scholarship, Joseph is being honored for demonstrating that same generosity of spirit, intelligence, responsible citizenship, and capacity for human service that distinguished the late LeGrand Smith of Somerset, Michigan.

Joseph is an exceptional student at Tecumseh High School and possesses an impressive high school record.

Joseph has received numerous awards for his excellence in academics as well as his involvement in band. Outside of school, he has been involved in Tecumseh Youth Theater and the community chorus and orchestra.

Therefore, I am proud to join with his many admirers in extending my highest praise and congratulations to Joseph Northrup for his selection as a winner of a LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This honor is also a testament to the parents, teachers, and others whose personal interest, strong support and active participation contributed to his success. To this remarkable young man, I extend my most heartfelt good wishes for all his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO DR. JAMES PERINO, SUPERINTENDENT, ACALANES UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2000

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, today I honor a very special leader in my district. Dr. James Perino has served as the Acalanes Union School District Superintendent for over a decade. As Superintendent, Dr. Perino has successfully worked for the betterment of the entire school community.

Dr. James Perino emphasized challenging academic programs and electives, established benchmarks and standards, stressed professional development programs, increased the use of technology as a learning tool, campaigned for modernization and new construction funds, worked for win-win employee relationships, implemented the strategic planning process, and developed strong business and community partnerships.

I take great pride in honoring Dr. James Perino's dedication and leadership. His hard work has created high standards, rigorous curricula and excellent teachers throughout the District. Under his direction, Acalanes Union School District has served as a model for

schools in Contra Costa County and throughout the State of California. I believe that school districts across the country should follow Dr. Perino's example and take the opportunity to learn from his successful and innovative ways.

THE ELDERLY HOUSING + HEALTH SUPPORT DEMONSTRATION ACT

HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2000

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Mr. Speaker, elderly and disabled Americans in the United States currently face a dire problem—inadequate public housing. Approximately 40% of HUD's 1.3 million public housing units are occupied by the Elderly and the Disabled who are paying in excess of half their income towards rent. Public housing apartment buildings have amassed a back-log of \$5.7 billion in needed repairs. Nearly two-thirds of the buildings were constructed prior to 1970 and have frequently been passed over for modernization due to inadequate appropriations. Many of these public housing units need significant upgrading to meet basic safety and comfort standards in order to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Upgrading these units creates opportunities to bring supportive health and other services to help residents age with mobility and avoid costly and depressitig institutionalization.

The Elderly Housing + Health Support Demonstration Act seeks to meet these aims by providing competitive awards to Public Housing Agencies (PHAS) for the most innovative proposals to address the soaring needs of the Elderly and Disabled to have access to health-related supportive and congregate housing services. Specifically, the bill provides: (a) \$250 million of capital funding for physical rehabilitation of the building and installation of facilities for health-related services; (b) a pool of up to \$10 million (maximum grant to a selected PHA is \$400,000) for service coordinator funds; and (c) \$15 million (maximum grant to a selected PHA is \$750,000) for congregate housing services. The total cost of this demonstration grant program is \$275 million.

Please join me in co-sponsoring The Elderly Housing + Health Support Demonstration Act. Upgrading public housing and providing a continuum of care will enable Elderly and Disabled public housing residents to have a quality assisted-living environment, a viable health care system, and an independent life. This program has the additional benefit of providing much needed cost savings and preventing premature institutionalization of one of our most vulnerable populations.

TRIBUTE TO SUSIE HAAS—2000 NATIONAL TEACHER'S HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2000

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, today I commend Kindergarten Teacher Susie Haas, one